

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7010

BILL NUMBER: HB 1220

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 21, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Feb 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Commission for Higher Education.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Rhoads

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Leising

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill allows the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to approve or disapprove existing or new associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees, or programs leading to a certificate or other indication of accomplishment. It requires degree proposals submitted to the CHE for approval to provide justifications for any additional credit requirements.

The bill requires each state educational institution to review its undergraduate degree programs to determine the number of credit hours required for the degree and to report the results of the review to the Commission, including a justification for any associate degree program of more than 60 hours or baccalaureate degree program of more than 120 hours.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill would allow CHE to approve any existing or proposed associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees, or programs leading to a certificate or other indication of accomplishment. Currently, CHE only approves new degrees. The bill would expand CHE's authority to terminate current programs at state educational institutions. The impact is indeterminable and dependent on future administrative action by CHE.

The bill also requires state educational institutions to review each undergraduate degree to determine the number of credit hours required for the degree and report the results to CHE. If a degree required more than 60 credit hours of an associate degree or 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree, the state educational institution would have to justify the additional credit hours. CHE is required to accept justification for

additional credit hours above 60 credit hours for an associate degree and 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree if the additional credit hours are required by a specific program's standards or for occupational certification or licensure and may accept the justification if the additional credit hours are related to employer requirements or enhanced program quality and contents. State educational institutions may incur some additional cost in collecting and reporting the data to CHE. CHE must periodically review and report on the credit hours required for degree programs..

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Commission for Higher Education. State Educational Institutions.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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